

provided in a wheel of a wheel unit in place to allow vibrations of said wheel unit and vibrations of said load member to dampen each other," as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action asserts on page 2 that Hewko discloses a lower control arm 32 connected to a ball joint 14 (see Figure 1 of Hewko). However, Hewko merely discloses a motor housing 44 being attached to the support element 16 via bolts 46 (see col. 2, lines 6-17 and Fig. 1 of Hewko). Hewko does not disclose an elastic member attached to a load member. Hewko also does not disclose the vibrations of a wheel unit canceling vibrations of a motor by means of an elastic member which converts the vibrations of the wheel unit into the vibrations of the motor. The motor wheel apparatus disclosed in Hewko cannot achieve this effect, as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Hewko does not teach, and would not have rendered obvious, all of the claimed features of independent claim 1.

Further, Tanahashi merely discloses a motor housing being attached to a support element via bolts (see Figure 6 of Tanahashi). Therefore, Tanahashi does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Hewko.

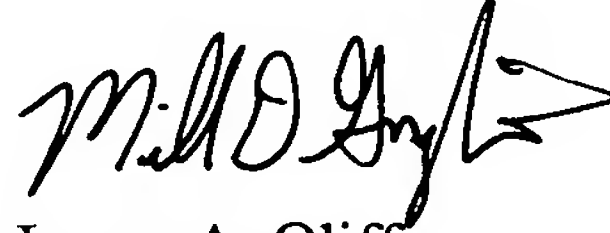
Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over the above-applied references. Claims 2-9 and 13-19 depend from independent claim 1, thus claims 2-9 and 13-19 are also patentable over the applied references for at least their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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